1993-94, and the income returned therein, the approximate number of assessees in different slabs of income ars as follows:—

Slabs of Income	No. of assesseex (In lakhs)
Company Cases	
less than Rs. 50,000 . .	0.92
Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 5 lakhs .	0.10
Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs .	0.49
dle than Rs. 10 lakhs . .	0.23
Non-Company Cases	
less than Rs. 2 lakhs . .	85.97
Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs .	0.28
Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 10 .akhs .	0.16
More than Rs. 10 lakhs . .	0.14

(c) The total outstanding demand as on 31-3-1994 in respect of Income-tax and Corporation-tax was Rs. 13,360.26 crores. The number of arrear cases as on 31-3-1994 is still under compilation. However, the number of such cases as on 31-3-1993 was 38,10,428.

The following steps are taken to reduce the arrears:

(i) high priority is given to the work of reduction of arrear demand;

(ii) in cases involving demands of Rs. 1 lakh and above dossiers are maintained and collection is monitored regularly;

(iii) appellate authorities including the Courts are regularly moved for early disposal of appeals/vacation of stays wherever granted;

(iv) Coercive measures like attachment and sale of property, levy of penalty, etc. are also taken in suitable cases.

Failure rtae of switching systems

*224. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of complaints from technicians that failure rates of switching systems offered by multinationals like Siemens etc. are much higher than those developed by C-DOT; and

(b) if so, what is the data available with Government on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Recommendations on the Ram Mohan Rao Committee on Small & Medium Newspapers

*226. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to implement the recommendations of Ram Mohan Rao Committee on the small and medium newspapers submitted to Government on the 27th December, 1990; and

(b) the measures taken by Government to improve the financial status of small newspapers in regional languages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Out of 12 recommendations made by the Committee, 11 have been accepted with some minor modifications in some cases. Statement-I thereof is laid on the Table of the House. (See below)

(b) Statement-II giving details of facilities which have some bearing on financial status of small newspapers including those in regional languages is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

S. No.	Conclusions & Recommendations	Report of Implementation of Ram Mohan Rao Committee on Small & Medium News pepers
1	Small Newspapers may be extended a special concessional rate of 5 paise instead of the present uniform rate of 15 paise under Postal Tariff. The concession may be extended to all registered small newspapers (dailies and weeklies) on production of a certificate from RNI.	This recommendation could not be accepted because of the inability of the Department of Posts to accept an additional liability over and above the present losses being incurred by them.
2	In Tele-communication Tariff, the concession similar to those in respect of ordinary TP circuits may be extended to Data/Fascmile circuits as well. With the extended concession to Data/Fascimile, the news agencies can continue to extend thier services to Small & Medium Newspapers without any further increase in rates	Accepted. The Department of Telecommunications have extended the concessions given to ordinary TP circuits to the Data/Fascimile circuits w.e.f. 1-1-1991.
3	The State Government may be asked to set the bus schedules in such a manner as to facilitate the requirements of the Small & Medium Newspapers also.	Accepted. Most of the State Government/Union Territories have informed that the Bus Schedules have been set to facilitate the requirement of small and medium newspapers.
4	The facility of despatch of Newspapers under Monthly Account System of the Railways be given to Newspapers Agencies as and when such a request is made by them subject to fulfilment of necessary formalities.	Accepted. The facility of despatch of newspapers under the Monthly Account System of the Railways has been made available to Newspapers as and when such a request is made by them subject to fulfilment of necessary formalities.
5	Since the declaration of Small & Medium newspapers as a small seale industry would not be feasible some of the relevant concessions available to Small Scale Industries should be extended to small and medium newspapers.	Accepted. The Reserve Bank of India has reported that loans and advances granted to Smal & Medium Newspapers which satisfy the investment critaria laid down for Small Scale Industries units are considered as priority sector advances and such units are eligible for concessions in the rates of interest, margin etc. as are normally available to other Small Scale Industries.
	The availability of loans for second-hand equipment and machinery for printing presses from the Nationalised Banks on the concessional terms as is now available to the new printing presses, be considered.	Accepted. Banks have been allowed tp grant term loans to borrowers against second-hand machinery if such machinery is imported from abroad.
7	The existing ceilling of Rs. 35 lakhs may be increased to Rs. 60 lakhs so that small and medium newspapzers could meet their requirement of modernisation. The ceiling may be raised as and then the Government raises the ceiling of the SSI Units.	Accepted. The ceilling has been increased to Rs. 60 lakhs w.e.f. 2-4-1991.

8 State Government may be requested to consider allotment of suitable accommodation on a priority basis to Shall and Medium Newspapers. news	Accepted. Most of the State Governments have responded stating that whatever is possible will be done.
9 UNI & PTI should consider extending their services at concessionsl rates to help Small & Medium Newspapers to supplement their modernisation efforts.	Accepted. The News Agencies have agreed to continus their services to small and medium newspapers at concessional rates.
10 The State Government may amend the accreditation rules to enable the Editors of Small newspapsers at the District Headquarters level to get accreditation	Accepted. The State Governments have been requested to implement this recommendation.
11 To maintain status quo regarding slow-spaced bulletin in regional lanquages by AIR.	Accepted. status quo in this regard is being maintained.
12 *Publication of a Compendium* The Committee took note of of the fact that various Government agencies are providing a number of facilities/concessions to the small and medium newspapers. Many newspapers to these categories are not aware of these facilities. The Committeee suggests that Ministry of I&B may bring out periodically compendium of the concession facilities extended to the small and medium newspapers so that even newspapers published from the remotest corner of the country are aware of the concession facilities available to them.	Accepted. State Governments Union Territories have been asked on 16-9-92, 31-12-92, 11-3-93 & 31-1-94 to make available the required information. Only four States/UT have responded so far.

Statement-II

Facilities extended to small newspapers

(i) Newspapers whose annual entitlement of standard newsprint is below 200 MT can import their entire requirement of newsprint. The imported newsprint is cheaper compared to indigenous newsprint.

(ii) A newspaper with a minimum paid circulation of 2000 copies is eligible for empanelment with DAVP for Government advertisements.

(iii) Papers/periodicals published in backward, remote, tribal areas or in tribal languages and meant primarily for tribal readers are made eligible for securing Government advertisements if their minimum paid circulation is 500 copies.

(iv) Small Newspapers-periodicals with an uninterrupted publication of four months now become eligible for securing Government advertisements as against the period of six months provided earlier.

(v) The standard print area (cm.) required for eligibility has also been lowered in case of Small & Medium Newspapers from 760 SCcm to 480 SCcm for weeklies, fortnightlies and from 1200 SCcm to 960 SCcm for Monthlies and other publications.

(vi) Newspapers/periodicals with a circulation of upto 2000 copies have been exempted from submission of Chartered Accountant certificate.

(vii) In the matter of advertisement rates of DAVP, rate structure provides an inbuilt weightage for Small & Medium papers.

(viii) Besides making available its general services such as news releases and features, Press Information Bureau supplies other types of news services such as ebonoid blocks, charbas (for Urdu papers only) and illustrated photo features to small newspapers.